

MUSKIE URGES UN

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tense feelings. There can be no short cuts." Muskie noted that the Camp David process has succeeded in achieving peace between Israel and Egypt and was now trying to resolve the Palestinian problem through the creation of autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. "After that, the process will proceed to negotiations which will determine the final status of those areas," the Secretary said.

But Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko, in his recent address, said the Camp David accords have led to "unabated tension in the Middle East where the situation is fraught with perilous unforeseen developments." He said the agreements are intended only "to satisfy Israel's annexation claims and to establish an American military presence in the Middle East." Declaring that the USSR supports the "inalienable national rights of the Arab people of Palestine whose only legitimate representative is the Palestine Liberation Organization," Gromyko charged that peace has become more elusive since the Camp David agreements. "It is for this reason that Camp David is rejected by the Arab states and denounced by all those who are

interested in a just and comprehensive settlement in the Middle East, not in a settlement dictated by imperialist interests," Gromyko declared.

Speaking for the European Economic Community (EEC), its chairman, Luxembourg Foreign Minister Gaston Thorn, told the Assembly that the Palestinian people and the PLO should be involved in negotiations concerning the Middle East and be obliged to adhere to a settlement which would arise from those negotiations. He said the EEC's nine member states believe Israel should stop establishing new settlements in the occupied territories and the Arab nations should "explicitly" recognize Israel's right to exist. Thorn reiterated the EEC position that a Mideast solution has to be based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. He called on Israel to end its occupation of the land seized in 1967 and said the time has come to assure the security of all states in the region, including Israel, and to recognize the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people.

British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington said that Britain and other members of the EEC are committed to the principles set down at the EEC summit conference in Venice last June. "The Middle East conflict is one which cries

out for negotiations leading to a peaceful solution," he said. But French Foreign Minister Jean Francois - Poncet charged that "the unilateral and illegal decisions of the State of Israel, whether in regard to the West Bank or more recently, Jerusalem, are new impediments to the search for a peaceful solution." In what was obviously another jab at Israel, although not by name, the French official charged that "attacks on Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity and on the mission and authority of the United Nations forces in that country" are further danger to peace in the Mideast.

Canada's Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mark MacGuigan, told the General Assembly that a cornerstone for the efforts to reach a comprehensive peace in the Mideast is "respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of every state, including Israel, to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries." He said there must be also recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. "Like other people, they are entitled to political expression within a defined territory and to participate in the negotiating process to find a just and comprehensive solution," he said.

Meanwhile, the General Assembly's credentials committee has approved Israel's credentials to participate in the current General Assembly session. But the committee's decision must be approved by the full Assembly.

NEW YORK (WNS) -- The United States has withheld \$5 million in funds for a United Nations program at the request of Rep. Bill Green (R, NY) because an Israeli firm was prevented from being the contractor for a major construction project, according to the Congressman's office here. In a letter to Secretary of State Edmund Muskie Aug. 12, Green recommended the U.S. reconsider its funding because Mustafa Tolba, director of the United Nations Environmental Program, "simply threw out the bids" when an Israeli firm submitted the lowest bid on a proposed \$23 million UNEP headquarters complex in Nairobi, Kenya.

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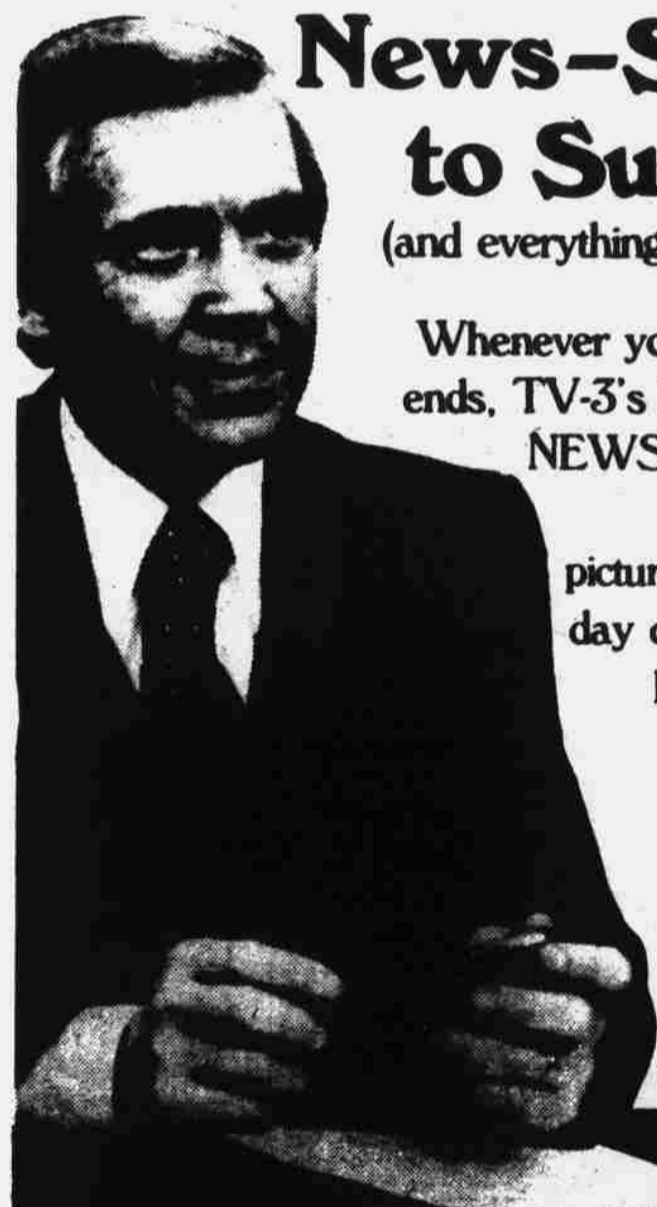
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